

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, OSCI, RO (STEVE, H. GUYFORD)

SUBJECT: U.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: BUCHAREST MEMCON SEPTEMBER 4, 1975, SUBJECT AS ABOVE.

FOR SCIATT FROM HULL

1. NSF APPRECIATES EMBASSY TRANSMITTAL TO NSF OF COPY OF RE-
FERENCED MEMCON.

2. SCIATT BRIEFING TO DR. STEVE MAY INCLUDE TENOR OF DR. URSU'S
REMARKS OF SEPTEMBER 4, POINTING OUT THAT NSF STAFF HAVE NOTED
STRONG GOR PURPOSE TO OBTAIN U.S. KNOW-HOW AND TRAINING FOR
ROMANIAN SPECIALISTS. IN FREQUENT INSTANCES, THIS PURPOSE DOES
NOT COINCIDE WITH NSF OBJECTIVES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC
KNOWLEDGE OR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPLICATIONS TO TECHNOLOGY.
IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, NSF STAFF HAS ATTEMPT-
ED TO CONVEY IDEA THAT THE NSF/NCST PROGRAM MAY BE MOST FRUITFUL
FOR BOTH SIDES IN INSTANCES WHERE QUALIFIED RESEARCHERS OF EACH
SIDE WORK TOGETHER FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WHICH EACH SIDE

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SHARES.

3. DR. URSU'S EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SEPARATE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS MIRRORS PAST EFFORTS BY GOR NEGOTIATORS OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO ASSIGN ALL S&T ACTIVITIES TO THE RESPONSIBILITY ON A SINGLE AGENCY ON EACH SIDE. NSF HAS NOT VOLUNTEERED TO ACCEPT SUCH RESPONSIBILITY AND USG NEGOTIATORS HAVE DECLINED TO DESIGNATE A SINGLE AGENCY ON THE U.S. SIDE.

4. CONTRARY TO DR. URSU'S IMPRESSION, THE NSF/NCST MOU IS NOT APPROACHING EXPIRATION. ITS TERM EXTENDS TO SEPTEMBER 1978 UNLESS EARLIER TERMINATED BY EITHER PARTY.

5. NOT RELATED TO THE REFERENCED MEMCON ARE FOLLOWING BRIEFING POINTS TO WHICH SCIATT MAY CONTRIBUTE BUCHAREST PERSPECTIVE. NSF STAFF HAS RECOMMENDED:

A. ENCOURAGEMENT TO NCST AND GOR TO STIMULATE INITIATIVE OF QUALIFIED ROMANIAN RESEARCHERS IN PROPOSING TO AMERICAN INVESTIGATORS COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WORK SUITED TO NSF/NCST PROGRAM AND IN LINE WITH BOTH ROMANIAN PRIORITIES AND CURRENT WORK OF PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN COLLABORATORS. TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE, ALSO ENCOURAGEMENT TO NCST TO UTILIZE JOINT SEMINARS AND INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGES AS MEANS BY WHICH ROMANIAN AND AMERICAN INVESTIGATORS TOGETHER MAY FORMULATE AND DEVELOP CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR SUBSEQUENT JOINT RESEARCH.

B. OPPOSITION TO NAS SUGGESTION FOR USE OF INTERACADEMY EXCHANGE PROGRAM AS MEANS OF EFFECTING COLLABORATIVE WORK BETWEEN RESEARCH GROUPS AND CONSORTIA. NSF STAFF BELIEVES INTERACADEMY PROGRAM IS UNWIELDY INSTRUMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. NSF/NCST PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED BY ORGANIZATIONS IDEALLY SITUATED TO ACCOMPLISH THAT PURPOSE AND NSF/NCST MODE OF OPERATION IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE INTERACADEMY MODE FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT. PRESENT INTERACADEMY PROGRAM IS EXCELLENT MEANS FOR PURSUIT OF INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS AND GENERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR SUBSEQUENT COLLABORATION WHICH MAY COME TO FRUITION IN NSF/NCST PROGRAM. KISSINGER

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